

that he had nothing left for him  
to do & his spirits & with them his  
strength have been continually  
declining - He always seemed glad when  
I or any other friend went to see him  
until the last week when he has become  
much weaker & refuses to see any one.  
Hooker is I believe the only person he  
consents to see & even with him he  
dictates conversation - The camp is  
going out for want of fuel. Pray  
give the very kind regards of my wife  
as well as myself to Mrs Gray - My  
wife admires & somewhat envies  
her spirit & her strength which I trust  
among other journeys will some day  
carry her back to England

With our united best wishes believe us -

Most sincerely yours

Unfortunately your last note  
mentioning Mrs Mrs Burges came John Ball  
while I was packing up & I had barely time  
to send a note & the hope of seeing them in the autumn.

Paris 9 July 1883

Mr Burges was kind enough to leave the parcel of plants along with your note at our  
house but I had no time to send it - Of course it is from Mrs Burges

My dear Dr Gray - You have heaped  
Coals of fire on my head by your kind letters  
to say nothing of a very hot one in the shape  
of a kind note from Mrs Gray - It has not  
been indolence or forgetfulness but the  
difficulty of knowing what to say that  
has kept me from writing - You have  
tempted me by the most attractive  
propositions that I can imagine to  
myself especially in your second  
letter received about three weeks  
ago - The notion of visiting in  
your company Mexico & then  
travelling in the Spring to California  
with ulterior plans for the summer  
is so delightful that it is enough  
to make a man break through all  
ties & neglect all duties - My  
virtue however still resists however

feeble but I cannot make up my mind to renounce altogether the hope of seeing something of the far west in your company.

The fact is that my health has not been flourishing through the last spring. I was twice laid up with bronchial attacks which were very tedious and I am scarcely yet rid of cough - we are now on our way to the Alps, starting this evening & from past experience I expect to be thoroughly set up by the air of the higher region but my wife has been troubling herself about my health & I shall find it more difficult than it was last year to get her to agree to my remaining long at a distance

On the other hand I am clear that she is not strong enough to undertake the journey across your big continent & I don't yet see how to arrange for her to remain in the Eastern states or Canada during my absence.

Of one thing you may be sure & that is that if at all possible I shall try to arrange so as to meet you next spring in California or elsewhere in the Far West; & you will probably have a letter from me asking you to give me a rendezvous somewhere.

I presume to say that Bentham has reached the close of his noble life for unless he should recover strength to a degree scarcely to be expected, we cannot wish mere existence to be prolonged - since the appearance of the last part of the genera he has felt & sometimes expressed the feeling